

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00580 280656Z
ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 /046 W
-----290021Z 108403 /73
R 280555Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6215
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0580

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO, BY
SUBJECT: 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
REF: STATE 102699

1. AMBASSADOR HAS HAD TALKS ON ILO CONFERENCE WITH LOUIS NDABAHAGAMYE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LABOR, HEAD OF THE BURUNDI ILO DELEGATION, AND CHIEF GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, AS WELL AS WITH MATHIAS NIZIGAMA, FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UTB (UNION OF BURUNDIAN WORKERS), WHO IS THE LABOR REPRESENTATIVE. HE WILL ALSO SEE CHIEF EMPLOYER DELEGATE FREDDY BROUSEMICHE (BELGIAN DIRECTOR OF THE BUJUMBURA LAKE PORT COMPANY), WHO WILL LEAVE BUJUMBURA ABOUT JUNE 14. (PRIOR TO THAT TIME, BURUNDI'S EMPLOYERS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ANOTHER BELGIAN BUSINESSMAN, MARCEL NIEMEGEREERS.)

2. BOTH BURUNDIAN OFFICIALS WERE GIVEN COPIES OF ABBREVIATED FRENCH VERSION (STATE 105258) OF TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL, FROM WHICH FYI PORTIONS HAVE BEEN EXCISED. DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE MAIN POLITICAL QUESTIONS, AND BOTH MEN SHOWED CONSIDERABLE AWARENESS OF THE STAKES. AMBASSADOR CITED EXAMPLE OF RESOLUTION IN 1976 OF CONFLICT BETWEEN U.S. AND UNESCO AS INDICATION THAT OUTCOMES COULD BE FOUND WHICH WOULD MEET U.S. REQUIREMENTS WHILE SATISFYING OTHER MEMBERS AS WELL. WHEN ASKED FOR SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, BOTH
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00580 280656Z

MEN GAVE NO PROMISES BUT SAID THAT BURUNDI WOULD ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROMOTE "CONSOLIDATION" OF ILO, WHICH PRESUMABLY MEANS TO KEEP U.S. AS MEMBER.

3. TWO OFFICIALS ALSO STATED THAT THEY FAVORED RESUMPTION OF CONTACTS WITH U.S. TRADE UNIONS, AND NIZIGAMA SAID THAT UTB HAS ALREADY BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH PATRICK O'FARRELL OF

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER, WHOM HE WANTS TO MEET IN GENEVA.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF GENEVA DELEGATION CAN GET WORD TO
O'FARRELL ABOUT THIS BURUNDIAN INTENTION.

4. BOTH MEN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING WITH U.S. DELEGA-
TION, AND THEY WERE GIVEN NAMES OF CHIEF DELEGATES. DELEGATION
WILL ALSO HAVE TWO OR MORE SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
POLITICAL OFFICER FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO MAY BE WELL WORTH
CONTACTING (NAME UNKNOWN).
MARK

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Message Attributes

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